

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 H-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02

PM-03 NSC-05 SS-15 /096 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN  
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN  
S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)  
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)  
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY  
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK  
NEA/ARN - MR. KORN  
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 080354

R 162207Z DEC 74  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANAA  
USINT BAGHDAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR  
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING DECEMBER 16,  
1974:

QUOTE: Q. MAY I ASK YOU ABOUT RECENT EGYPTIAN STATEMENTS  
CONCERNING PROPOSALS FOR PEACE WITH ISRAEL, SUCH AS LIMIT-  
ING THE EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL AND THESE SORT OF STATEMENTS?

A. YES; OBVIOUSLY YOU CAN ASK ABOUT IT. I'M NOT GOING TO  
GET INTO COMMENTING ON THE SUBSTANCE, AS WE'VE SAID MANY  
TIMES BEFORE, ON WHAT ANY OF THE PARTIES MAY HAVE TO SAY;  
AND WE'VE SAID THIS REPEATEDLY: WE'RE ENGAGED IN A PERIOD  
OF QUIET DIPLOMACY HERE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND AS FAR AS  
OUR COMMENTING ON PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE BY THE PARTIES TO  
THESE NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH MAY CONCERN THE NEXT STEP IN THE  
PEACEMAKING PROCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WE'RE JUST NOT  
GOING TO COMMENT ON IT.

Q. COULDN'T YOU PERSUADE THE TWO SIDES TO BE QUIET -- TO  
FOLLOW YOUR EXAMPLE AND BE QUIET TOO?

A. I THINK THE BEST I CAN DO THERE IS CONTINUE TO REPEAT  
THE STATEMENT AT EVERY NOON BRIEFING, IF YOU WISH ME TO.

Q. CAN YOU SAY WHAT IMPACT THAT STATEMENT MIGHT HAVE ON  
THESE EFFORTS AT "QUIET DIPLOMACY" AT THE MOMENT?

A. I THINK THE ONLY THING THERE THAT I CAN SAY IS TO  
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REPEAT WHAT SECRETARY KISSINGER SAID IN BRUSSELS AT HIS  
PRESS CONFERENCE ON FRIDAY, WHEN HE WAS ASKED IF HE HAD  
EXPRESSED PESSIMISM TO HIS FELLOW FOREIGN MINISTERS AT  
THE NATO MEETING ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A PEACEFUL  
SETTLEMENT. AND HE SAID -- AND HERE I'D LIKE TO JUST QUOTE  
IT: "I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT I AM NOT  
PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT,  
AND THE U.S. IS MAKING A MAJOR EFFORT TO PRODUCE PROGRESS

TOWARDS A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, AND I AM NOT AT ALL PESSIMISTIC ABOUT IT."

AND THAT ASSESSMENT STILL STANDS TODAY.

Q. DID THE SECRETARY HAVE IN HAND AT THAT TIME MR. FAHMI'S STATEMENT WHEN HE MADE HIS STATEMENT?

A. I CAN NOT RECALL WHETHER THAT HAD BEEN ISSUED PRIOR TO THE PRESS CONFERENCE OR NOT. IT MAY HAVE BEEN. BUT I CAN CHECK ON THE EXACT TIMING.

I WOULD ASSUME, FRANKLY -- LET'S ASSUME THAT HE DIDN'T HAVE IT, FIRST; AND THEN LET'S ASSUME HE DID HAVE IT. IN EITHER WAY I AM CONVINCED THE SECRETARY WOULD HAVE MADE THE SAME STATEMENT BEFORE OR AFTER.

Q. CAN YOU COMMENT ON A REPORT THAT THE ISRAELIS TOLD -- FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON TOLD KISSINGER LAST WEEK THAT ISRAEL NOW IS NOT INTERESTED IN RECEIVING A NUCLEAR REACTOR WHICH WAS UNDER NEGOTIATION?

A. I CAN'T COMMENT ON IT. IF I GET SOMETHING I WILL THOUGH. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT. I READ THE REPORT, BUT THAT'S ALL.

Q. THERE WAS A REPORT TODAY IN THE WASHINGTON POST IN A COLUMN BY EVANS AND NOVAK THAT PRESIDENT SADAT DROPPED HIS PLANS TO VISIT WASHINGTON EARLY NEXT YEAR. ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY CHANGES IN THE PLANS OF HIS?

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY CHANGES IN THE PLANS THAT PRESIDENT SADAT MAY HAVE.

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Q. SO HE WILL COME -- YOU ASSUME THAT HE WILL COME TO WASHINGTON?

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY CHANGE IN HIS PLANS. I THINK I HAVE TO LEAVE IT RIGHT THERE NOW, AND YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK THE WHITE HOUSE ON THAT FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION.

Q. PRESIDENT SADAT GAVE AN INTERVIEW TO AN IRANIAN PUBLISHER AND HE SAID HE BELIEVES THAT THERE IS SLACKNESS IN THE MOMENTUM OF THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH. WHAT'S YOUR COMMENT ON THAT?

A. I'D LIKE TO, ON THAT, GO BACK TO WHAT THE SECRETARY HAS SAID IN BRUSSELS, THAT I JUST READ, WITH REGARD TO NOT

BEING PESSIMISTIC ABOUT A SETTLEMENT, AND ALSO REFER YOU  
BACK TO WHAT PRESIDENT SADAT SAID ON THE STEP-BY STEP  
APPROACH.

WE ARE, WE CONTINUE TO BE, ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN TRYING TO  
ASSIST THE PARTIES TO ARRIVE AT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. AND  
I CAN'T TAKE YOU ANY FURTHER THAN THAT NOW. END QUOTE.  
KISSINGER

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